

Unit 5 Learning Activities for Robertson McQuilkin's *Five Smooth Stones: Essential Biblical Principles for Ministry*.

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Evaluating Your Own Leadership

Using the characteristics Peter has given us for godly leadership (see chapter 18 in *Five Smooth Stones*); evaluate your own ministry as best you understand your track record to date.

Below I list the godly characteristics we've considered. In the right hand margin re-order them in order of their strength in your own ministry with one being the strongest.

Do not respond simply with what each term suggests, but review the description in chapter 18 of *The Five Smooth Stones book* before evaluating its rank in your own ministry. If you do not use this approach you will likely evaluate your ministry using definitions you have brought to this study, rather than reflecting what you have derived from it.

After ranking the characteristics, reflect on those at the end of your list and describe briefly what you intend to do for strengthening the weak areas.

GOD'S STANDARD FOR LEADERSHIP

SHARED
LOVING
PURPOSEFUL
SHEPHERDING
STRONG
FREE OF COMPULSION
EAGER
NON-COERCIVE
MODELING
HUMBLE
FAITH-FILLED

A CONGREGATION'S LEADERS

Instructions for the Reader (30 minutes)

Read Chapter 18 *The Five Smooth Stones* book. List an example of a Christian in the congregation who is a good example of each of these traits. Write out your thoughts of how these characteristics apply to every Christian.

11 Characteristics of Godly Leaders from 1 Peter

1. Shared Authority
2. Loving
3. Purposeful
4. Shepherding
5. Strong
6. Free of Compulsion
7. Eager
8. Non-Coercive
9. Modeling
10. Humble
11. Faith Filled

Are these characteristics only for congregational leaders?

THE PRACTICE OF CHURCH DISCIPLINE

Instructions for a Group

Read chapter 20 in *The Five Smooth Stones* book. Prepare a lesson on what the Bible teaches about discipline. As part of the lesson distribute the case studies which follow, and have the class form groups of three to discuss how the principles on biblical discipline should be applied.

If you need to do this exercise in less time, assign one case study to each group so that they focus on one case study. Then have all the groups who looked at each one share their insights during the report time.

Case Studies in Church Discipline

Following a reading of each of the following cases describe briefly how the senior pastor should pursue purity in the body. Be sure to indicate why you would make the proposal giving both the **reason** for the action and objective (or motive) as well as the **method or approach** you would take.

1. Jim Wisdom, popular local high school teacher, has been teaching the teen Sunday School class for a year. Recently it has been reported to you that he is teaching the creation story as myth, "true myth," to be sure, but not history as such.
2. Nicole Shapely is a teen beauty queen who is also the spiritual spark plug in your youth group. She does have a tendency to wear outfits that the boys delight in and the adults feel are risqué, especially inappropriate to be wearing on the church platform. Nicole insists on her rights.
3. The church covenant prohibits anyone with a divorce for any reason to serve in a role of spiritual leadership. Deacon Honorable says he will not violate that policy, but cannot teach it as Scriptural truth.
4. Mildred Stronger has sort of owned the church for decades. She doesn't like some of the pastor's favorite themes and feels obliged to tell everyone who will listen how she feels about it.
5. Jake Markup, chairman of the elder board, is notorious in town for sharp dealing in his used car business. Many townspeople claim to have been short-changed in dealing with him.